

# Basketball Season Draws Curtain

## Saxons Batter South In Bay League Final

Eighteen-point performances by center Al Lepper and guard Carey Hubert propelled North High to a 62-51 victory over arch-rival South Thursday in the final Bay League basketball engagement for both clubs. With Lepper finally coming out of a prolonged scoring slump and Hubert continuing his all-league manners, North put together a successful second-half rally to record its second win of the season over the Spartans.

Behind a 17-point outburst by Mike Berry, South rattled off a 17-9 first quarter lead, and by intermission, still maintained a 26-18 bulge.

**NORTH QUICKLY** assumed command, pouring through 24 points in the third stanza while holding South to 11 markers. The Saxons continued the pressure in the final period by outscoring their across-town foes, 20-14.

South failed to realize its

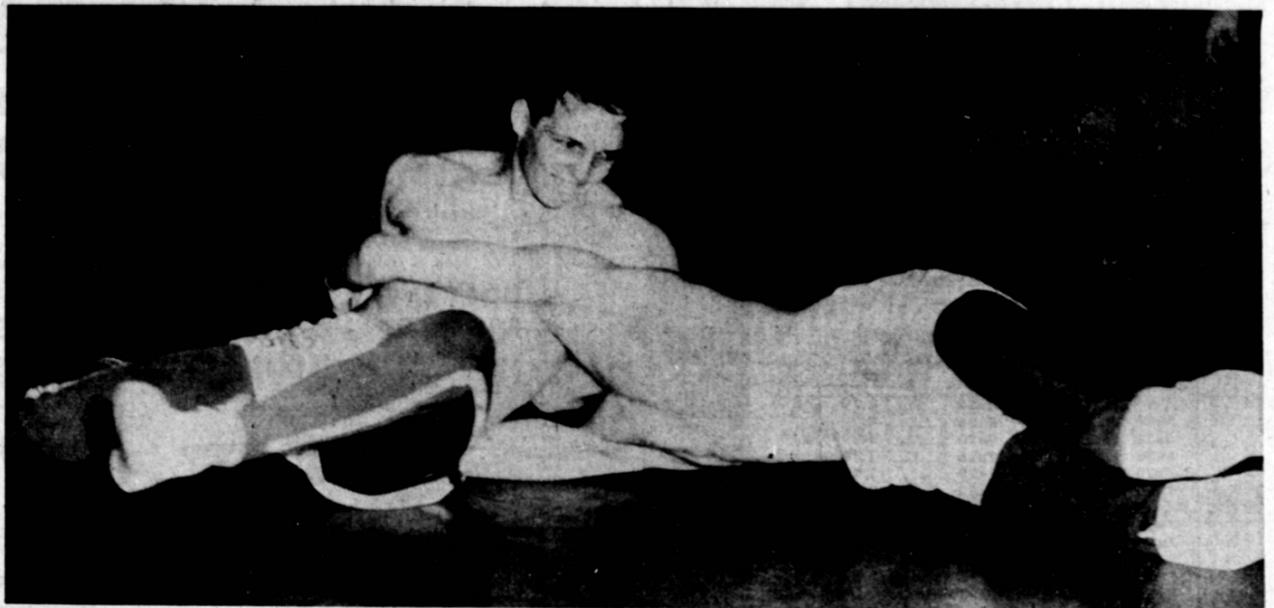
usual scoring effort from one of the circuit's hottest gunners, forward Don Denson. Denson canned eight digits, and it was left to Berry to carry the load. Spartan center John Thomas chipped in with 12 points.

**THE CONTEST** marked the end of a disappointing year for both clubs. Failing to live up to its expected potential, North finished with a 7-8 loop mark

while South has but three circuit victories to its credit.

Mira Costa and Ingewood wound up deadlocked for the league crown as Hawthorne pulled a 51-48 upset on the Sentinels Thursday night.

Ingewood had previously all but clinched undisputed possession of the title with a narrow win over Mira Costa. Both clubs will enter the CIF playoffs.



**NEW CHAMPION . . .** South High grappler Ken Blight struggles to free himself from Santa Monica's Leigh Taylor in the finals of the 157-pound division in the Bay League. Blight defeated his Viking opponent by decision in an overtime period. By virtue of the victory, the Spartan grap-

pler earned the right to compete in the CIF quarterfinals to be held at Mira Costa on March 2. Joining Blight in the prelims will be South's Doug Tamble, victor in the 106-pound classification. Last year, South won the CIF championship. (Herald Photo)

## The Fearless Spectator

By

Charles McCabe, Esquire



I'm sure you will be delighted to hear that Bo Belinsky is about to take the veil.

Baseball's most noted swinger has publicly announced that he has sworn off broads, bright lights, rum and riot, and other aspects of the rich full life. The habits of Bo, a lefty pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels, interest me greatly. There is nothing quite so touching as a truly devoted case of self-love. Bo's romance with himself is the most moving idyll I can recall since Mussolini.

Bo pitched a no-hitter last year. His ego blossomed like a chrysanthemum. He paid the price of success by proving unable to cope with the vulgarity which accompanies it, like shapely tomatoes from the cinema.

Aside from the no-hitter, Bo had pretty much of a nothing year in '62. It looked as though he was headed back to class-D baseball in Georgia, whence he sprang.

He seemed doomed to that obscurity that overcame Mr. Bobo Holloman, who pitched a no-hitter for the St. Louis Browns in 1953, and is today as forgotten as a Ptolemy's diet.

For Trenton's gift to womanhood has also incurred the wrath of his leader. Angel general manager Fred Haney, who had said to him, in front of the entire Angel squad, "You're just a damned alley cat."

Bo's taste in cupcakes was so electric and so penetrating that a tough old baseball pro was moved to ask, "Do you think baseball will ruin Bo Belinsky's career?"

Off the field Bo wears blue suede shoes, long hair, and his famed lipstick-red Cadillac. He is a throwback to the days of George IV. He would have doubtless polished his boots with champagne like the rest of the bucks of the Regency jet set.

But all this is changed now, changed utterly. This year we are to have a new, muted Bo. A veritable anchorite. He has announced:

"I've sworn off bright lights along the Sunset Strip and dates with sexy starlets. I overdid the night clubs and bright lights in every town we hit last season. In each city it was a different story about Belinsky living it up.

"If they wanta say Belinsky is a bum this year, they're going to have to do it without my cooperation or quotes. I never believed in sneaking around, but that's what I'll have to do this year—keep to myself.

"Everybody likes a winner, so I gotta improve my won-lost record over last year. You can't be in show business and play ball at the same time. The Angels gave me a \$15,000 contract this year, and that should hold me for a while."

The spectacle of Mr. Belinsky giving his all for baseball is not without its puzzling aspects.

Bo made seven grand or so last year. His salary was not doubled because of his pitching record. He won 10 and lost 11, with an earned-run average of 3.56.

No, Bo wouldn't be in the majors at all, much less with a fat increase, if he weren't some kind of a nut, and therefore worth a couple of thousand American League tickets at the gate every time he throws.

It is precisely his addiction to dollies, his pool playing, his Runyonesque patois, his curious associates and his flair for the magenta spotlight that make Bo what show biz calls a property.

Let the lad reform, and it's back to Little Rock for him. Unless by some miscarriage of fate he wins 20 games or so.

But baseball, being what it is, cannot acknowledge any of this. The game is riddled with public virtue. An isolated tomat like the amiable Bo is just what is needed to liven things up.

The Angel management knows this. The American League knows it. Yet Bo is forced to make the usual idiot obeisances to Mrs. Grundy.

The lefty's career, like the lives of most great men, teaches a simple basic single lesson: baseball is great, but it has yet to catch up with sex.

## Warriors End Year With Loss

Despite a 19-point scoring effort by Steve Cooke, West High closed out its first Pioneer League basketball season with a 65-50 loss to Palos Verdes Thursday night.

Cooke was the only Warrior to connect in double figures, but three Palos Verdes cagers ranked above the 10-point mark.

The Sea Kings jumped into a 17-11 first quarter lead, and despite a Tribe rally in the second quarter, went into halftime with a 31-28 bulge.

West closed the gap to 41-39 at the end of the third stanza, but Palos Verdes pulled the contest out with a 16-point final period while the Warriors were being held to 11 markers.

John Cochran threw in 14 points and yanked down 25 rebounds as West High rolled to its fourth Pioneer League basketball win on Tuesday, a 53-36 decision over Lennox.

Cochran, a 6-2, 195-pound sophomore center, set a new school record in the rebounding department. During the loop campaign, he has averaged 14 rebounds per game.

Also sparkling for the Warriors were Bob Hebert with 13 markers and Steve Cooke with 12 points.

**WEST GRABBED** a 19-16 halftime lead against the Lancers and continually lengthened the bulge in the second half.

Two Lennox cagers wound up in double figures, but it was not enough to top Cochran and crew. Many of Cochran's points came on rebounds as he grabbed the ball and stuffed it into the hoop.

The West junior varsity also whipped Lennox, earning a 54-36 duke.

## Seahawks Lose Hope Of Crown

Hopes of a Western Conference basketball crown went out the window for Harbor College Thursday night as the Seahawks dropped a 74-67 nod to circuit-leading Pierce.

With only one game remaining, Pierce boasts a 12-1 mark while the Seahawks repose in second place with a 10-3 record. Had Harbor won, the two clubs would probably have finished in a tie for the title.

Harbor's Ed Briscoe poured 20 points through the hoop and three other Hawks joined him in the double figure bracket. Pierce was one jump ahead as five Brahmas canned 11 digits or better.

**BACKING UP** Briscoe were Jim Leslie with 16 markers, Dave Olsen with 14 points and Bob Hoppes with 12 digits.

Only an 8 p.m. contest on Tuesday with rugged Pasadena remains for the Seahawks. The season-ending fray will be played on the Harbor court.

**BY VIRTUE** of his 20-point performance, Briscoe remained the second highest scorer in the conference. Only Glendale's John Block, now a student at USC, remains above the Hawk center. Briscoe has chucked in 238 points in 10 conference clashes.



## Camino Quintet Nabs First Division Berth

Preserving its finest scoring effort of the season for the final game, El Camino earned a first division Metropolitan Conference basketball berth Thursday night with a 106-71 win over Long Beach. Despite a lack of height, Camino managed to finish in fourth place in the conference. San Diego captured the crown with Bakersfield second and Cerritos third. Long Beach falls into the fifth place slot with the defeat.

**EARLY IN THE** tilt, the Tribe went down 4-3, but quickly responded and held a 44-24 bulge at halftime.

Employing a full court press, Long Beach closed the gap to 52-40 shortly after the mid-mark, but then ran out of steam.

**TINY WARRIOR** backcourt ace Bob Garcia, a 5-8 wonder, popped in 21 markers, 15 coming in the first half, to grab high-scoring honors. John Rambo topped the Vikings

with 19 points before fouling out late in the contest.

Six Redskins connected in double figures as El Camino unleashed its most devastating scoring effort of the season. Forward Bob Moon, the oldest man on the ECC squad at 24, canned 17 points, Bob Pierce notched 17, Gary Nix potted 12, and Bob Cliborn and Paul Bush chipped in with 10 points apiece.

**IT WAS** El Camino's second win of the season over the

taller LBCC quintet. Earlier in the season the Warriors battled to a double overtime decision.

At the beginning of the campaign, the Redskins were picked to finish out of the first division, but veteran coach George Stanich forged his club into an aggressive, fast-breaking team to wind up with an 8-6 Metro mark.

With several breaks, the Braves might have reached the second step on the conference ladder. Several points kept Camino from wins against Bakersfield and San Diego, ECC split with third place Cerritos.

## Dragsters Go Today At Lions

Southern California's top drag pilots will be entered in today's Western Championships at Lions Drag Strip in Long Beach.

Jack Chrisman of Long Beach, the top driver on the National Dragster ratings, and number two man John Peters of Santa Monica will head entries in the gas eliminator event.

**TOM McEWEN** of Long Beach, last year's top driver, will have his new fuel dragster ready for the eliminations. McEwen, alternating between gas and fuel dragsters last year, won more top eliminator titles at the Lions Strip than any other driver.

Pushing McEwen for the fuel crown will be Don Moody of Santa Monica. Moody recently set a new elapsed time record at Lions of 8.04 seconds for the quarter-mile run.

**ANOTHER** formidable entry in the fuel class is Don Garlits of Florida, ranked number three in the nation. Garlits holds the world's elapsed time record of 7.88 seconds.

Time trials will be held this morning with final eliminations getting underway in the afternoon.

## Cage Ace Cans 43 Markers

Phenomenal Rex Hughes bucketed 43 points the past week in leading Bryant's to a 119-65 victory over the Shell Jets in Tuesday League basketball competition.

Warren Peterson (28), Bob Garrett (20) Mike Karavas (14), and manager Bob Avery (12), also contributed heavily to the one-sided win. Dean Starkey pumped in 29 points for the Jets, while Vince Martinis and Jim Cowden added 14 markers each.

Three cagers hit in double figures for Thunderburger to guide a 55-47 decision over the Llama Room. Bill Reinert paved the way with 18 points, followed by Gene Crenshaw (13) and Gil Peterson (12).

**TOM CYKON** and Merrill Clark canned 14 digits apiece for the losers and Tom Handley chipped in with 11 more.

Ted Attebury sent 25 points skimming through the hoop as the First Baptist Church hung an 86-24 licking on Big Nine. Backing up Attebury were manager Howard Taylor (18), Terry Taylor (14) and Spencer Campbell (12).

**JOHN GRAHAM** hit nine points for Big Nine. Hughes also led Bryant's to a 45-41 win over Aeronca in Thursday League play but lost high-scoring honors to the loser's Ronnie Temple, who canned 22 markers. Bill Clark pumped in 10 points for Aeronca.

Sam Edwards and Mike Kirkpatrick each deposited 19 digits through the net as Murphy's whipped Harvey Aluminum, 70-54. Bernie Siminich (14) and Larry Lujan (10) backed up the high-scoring duo.

For Harvey, Gary Wright (14), Ed Riley (13), Wilbert Milo (12), and Ray Doty (10) were the big gunners.

Other action saw Party House notch a 72-38 win over AIREsearch behind the hot shooting of Marlin Muse (21), Mike Andrews (19), Dave Hurford (13), and Jim Mannix (12). Larry Biladeau led AIREsearch with 20 markers.

## Amble Teams In Deadlock For Top Spot

Remaining in contention for the Ample League basketball crown, the Dead Heads whipped the Madrona Squares, 6-16, 16-9, 14-10, on Monday.

Madrona and the North High Teachers are tied for the lead with 6-2 records with the Dead Heads second at 6-3. Riviera Moose boasts a 4-4 mark with the Blue Balls and Rambling Wrecks at 3-6, and Local 1547 standing at 2-6.

Other games saw Riviera Moose defeat the North High Teachers, 16-13, 6-15, 16-13; the Blue Balls knock off the Rambling Wrecks, 12-8, 16-8, and Local 1547 lick the Rambling Wrecks, 16-12, 16-9.



**TOP HORSEHIDERS . . .** Receiving their awards at a Los Angeles County Recreation banquet for winning the Western Division Winter Baseball Championship are members of the Torrance Bullets. Shown front, left to right, are Jim Jensen, Mike Brooks, Jack Crist, John Marsden, and

Bob Wallace. Back, left to right, are Jim Hillmen, county recreation coordinator; manager Bob Prior, Dick Webster, John Treece, Rudy Perez, Butch Nickoloff, and Ken Michaels. Missing at the dinner were George Carr, Tony Treece, and Lex Dutcher.